



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah 84501

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FEB 07 2000

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING

3482
UTU-76195
(UT-070)

Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple Street, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

FEB 14 2000

*Incoming Copy Letter to
Pam, Dave,
For Petera
DFD*

Re: Add Pines Tract Lease to SUFCO Mine, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC. (CFC), SUFCO Mine
ACT/041/002-SR99D #2, Sevier County, Utah

Dear Mr. Haddock:

We have reviewed the subject proposal by CFC to add Federal coal lease UTU-76195 (Pines Tract) to their permit for the SUFCO Mine. The addition of the Pines Tract is a significant revision of the Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2). In order to properly address the proposed amendment, CFC should submit a new R2P2 to comply with 43 CFR 3482.1(b) Resource Recovery and Protection Plans. This updated mine plan (R2P2) should be a stand-alone document within the SMCRA Mine and Reclamation Plan. It should include the present operations, without reference to past documents submitted to the BLM, along with all new operations planned. It should detail operations at the SUFCO Mine as they stand now and how CFC plans to operate. Certain items (i.e., equipment specifications, roof control and ventilation plan, etc.) may not be readily submittable at the present time; however, within each section of the mine plan, statements concerning their submittals should be made. All required data which is clearly duplicated in other portions of the Permit Application Package or other submittals (i.e., MSHA) may be used to fulfill the requirements of 43 CFR 3480, provided the cross-reference is clearly stated (volume, section, page, etc.). However, a copy of the relevant portion must be included in the R2P2 (43 CFR 3482.1(c)(6)). All relevant mining or mining-related items must be included in the Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (Enclosure 1).

The mine plan should include detailed mining methods.

This section shall include, in addition to your schedule of anticipated rates of mine production, a complete detailed description of the mining method(s) to be employed throughout the life of the operation, including schedules of projected mine development utilizing maps, cross-sections, diagrams, etc. This should include details related to such items as estimated number, size, depth, and location of adits, shafts, and ventilation schemes and openings; room-and-pillar layouts, longwall panel layouts and/or combination layouts; information on whether the entire thickness of the commodity is to be mined or whether part is to be left for floor or roof support; recovery factors; transportation, haulage, and handling systems (flow diagram); type(s) of ground support; explosives--types(s) and methods of use; types, size, specifications and scheduling of production equipment; mine dewatering plans and equipment; mine power and utility systems; distribution system; and schedules of personnel requirements, including skill breakdown. List all basic mining equipment and provide manufacturer's specifications.

There should be an explanation of how MER of the Federal coal is achieved. If a coalbed, or portion thereof, is not to be mined or is to be rendered unminable by the operation, the operator/lessee shall submit appropriate justification. The 43 CFR 3482.2(a)(2) states, No resource recovery and protection plan or modification thereto shall be approved which is not found to achieve MER of the Federal coal. The determination of MER shall be made by the authorized officer based on the review of the R2P2. MER is defined within 43 CFR as meaning, based on standard industry operating practices, all profitable portions of a leased Federal coal deposit must be mined. At the time of MER determinations, consideration will be given to: existing proven technology; commercially available and economically feasible equipment; coal quality, quantity, and marketability; safety, exploration, operating, processing and transportation costs; and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The requirements of MER does not restrict the authority of the authorized officer to ensure the conservation of the recoverable coal reserves and other resources and to prevent the wasting of coal. This discussion should include all data and information for elimination of any portions of the Sunnyside seam due to marketability, overburden, faulting and/or sulfur content issues. To ensure that adequate data is available for the MER determination, the following is required:

- 1) Mining Costs. A description of the cost for all mining equipment, associated equipment, personnel costs, ancillary equipment costs, production costs, overhead and other cost provisions.
- 2) Production Costs. Statement as to production costs or projected production costs.
- 3) Other requirements (contracts, etc.) or costs that have an direct or indirect influence on MER.
- 4) Recovery factors (longwall, room-and-pillar and development).

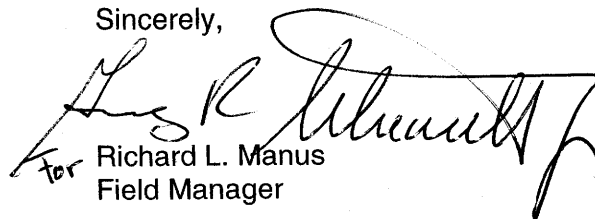
The mine plan should also provide appropriate justification (design criteria) for the size of all protective barrier pillars utilized in the mine layout in accordance with 43 CFR 3482.1 (c)(4)(v)(C), the location of where pillars will be left and an explanation of why these pillars will not be mined.

Abandonment should briefly discuss the planned methods for properly abandoning all drill holes, shafts, pits, adits, or other openings, including access and haul roads (temporary and permanent) and the removal of all equipment, materials and facilities to protect the unminable recoverable coal reserves and other resources.

All maps as required in Enclosure 1, Section II Maps should be included.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact George Tetreault at the Price Field Office at 636-3604.

Sincerely,


For Richard L. Manus
Field Manager

Enclosure
R2P2 Requirements (5 pp)

cc: UT-070, Price Field Office (w/o Enclosure)

UT-935, SD, Utah (w/o Enclosure)

Joe Wilcox (w/o Enclosure)

Office of Surface Mining

Reclamation and Enforcement

1999 Broadway, Suite 3320

Denver, Colorado 80202-5733

Wesley K. Sorenson (w/Enclosure)

Canyon Fuel Company

SUFCO Mine

397 South 800 West

Salina, UT 84654

ENCLOSURE 1

R2P2 REQUIREMENTS

The R2P2 is the plan required by Section 7(c) of the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA). The Permit Application Package (PAP), including the R2P2, is submitted to the Assistant Secretary - Lands and Minerals Management, in accordance with Section 523 of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. The Bureau formally recommends approval or disapproval of the R2P2 in Utah to Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (representing Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM)) as part of the approval process. The R2P2, at a minimum, must meet the requirements of :

1. The MLA of 1920, as amended and supplemented,
2. The regulations at 43 CFR 3480,
3. The lease terms and conditions, and
4. Maximum Economic Recovery (MER).

Resource Recovery and Protection Plans include practices to: recover efficiently the recoverable reserves subject to these rules; avoid wasting or damage to or degradation of coal-bearing formations; ensure MER of the Federal coal; and ensure that other resources are protected during exploration, development, and mining, and upon abandonment.

Mining Plan means an operation and reclamation plan that must be approved pursuant to Section 7(c) of MLA, prior to commencement of operations that might cause a significant disturbance to the environment. The "mining plan" must show that the proposed operation meets the requirements of MLA for development, production, resource recovery and protection, diligent development, continued operations, MER and the regulations of 43 CFR Part 3480 for the life of mine, containing all requirements set out at 43 CFR 3482.1(b), and that must be approved prior to commencement of operations.

All data and plans for operations on Federal lands submitted shall be available for inspection under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), as amended, except that proprietary geological and geophysical data and interpretation of such data, maps, trade secrets, and financial information required to be submitted shall not be available for inspection without the consent of the lessee.

In order to allow for an expedited review of the R2P2, the Permit Application Package (PAP) should include an individual volume(s) containing all the required information and data, marked as the R2P2. All required data which is clearly duplicated in other portions of the Permit Application Package or other submittals (i.e., MSHA) may be used to fulfill the requirements of 43 CFR 3480, provided the cross-reference is clearly stated. A copy of the relevant portion must be included in the R2P2 (43 CFR 3482.1(c)(6)). All items that are relevant (mining or mining related) must be included in the Resource Recovery and Protection Plan.

I. Mining Plans (3482.1(b))

A. Introduction

- 1) Names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons responsible for operations to be conducted under the approved plan to whom notices and orders are to be delivered and name and addresses of the operator/lessees.
- 2) Federal lease numbers.

B. Description of Existing Area

- 1) Surface topography, use and surface and subsurface ownership.

General description and map of regional features, including topography, transportation networks, population centers, cultural and recreation facilities, other mines, surface and mineral ownership within the area and land usage.

2) Geologic conditions.

A brief but precise description and map of the geology and soils of the area including types, extent, lithologies, structural features such as bedding, faults, folds, thicknesses, significant physical characteristics of the deposit; and also describe the location, characteristics, and evaluation of any potential geologic hazards (e.g., slides, faults, sink holes, etc.).

C. Proposed Mining Activity

1) Development drilling program (surface and in-mine).

Include access, methods, time sequence, duration, expected depth, types of logging, equipment (type and size), abandonment methods and site restoration.

2) Description of resource - nature, extent, recovery.

a) An estimate of the coal reserve base, minable coal reserve and recoverable coal reserves for each Federal coal lease within the R2P2.

b) Detailed description of the mineral resources determined to exist beneath the leased lands including grade (e.g., for coal, BTU content, ash, water, sulphur, volatile matter and carbon content) and present estimates of recoverability. Justification for not mining the full thickness if only part of a coalbed will be mined; justification for mining only a particular bed if multiple beds are present so that future environmental disturbance through resumption of mining will be minimized; and consideration given to ensuring the maximum practical recovery of the mineral resource.

c) If the R2P2 covers an LMU, the coal reserve base, minable coal reserve and recoverable coal reserves for the non-Federal lands will be included in the R2P2.

3) Detailed mining methods.

This section shall include detailed schedules of anticipated rates of mine production accompanied by complete descriptions of the mining method(s) to be employed throughout the life of the operation, including schedules of projected mine development utilizing maps, cross-sections, diagrams, etc.

a) For underground mining - the above would include details related to such items as estimated number, size, depth, and location of adits, shafts, and ventilation schemes and openings; room-and-pillar layouts, longwall panel layouts and/or combination layouts; information on whether the entire thickness of the commodity is to be mined or whether part is to be left for floor or roof support; recovery factors; transportation, haulage, and handling systems (flow diagram); type(s) of ground support; explosives--types(s) and methods of use; types, size, specifications and scheduling of production equipment; mine dewatering plans and equipment; mine power and utility systems; distribution system; and schedules of personnel requirements, including skill breakdown.

4) Beneficiation and Coal Preparation.

A detailed description and location map of all beneficiation or preparation facilities including size, recovery factors, waste products, use, major equipment and processes, chemical types and quantities and flow diagrams of the anticipated processing and upgrading operations.

5) Abandonment.

Briefly discuss the planned methods for properly abandoning all drill holes, shafts, pits, adits, or other opening, including access and haul roads (temporary and permanent) and the removal of all equipment, materials and facilities to protect the unminable recoverable coal reserves and other resources.

D. Proposed Reclamation Activity

1) Schedule.

- a) An estimated timetable for the removal of all equipment and materials from the mine, including but not limited to hazardous and toxic materials.
- b) Land-disturbing activities including topsoil removal and storage, overburden removal and disposal, tailings disposal, pit excavation, surface construction, roads, powerlines, etc.
- c) An estimated reclamation timetable including grading, backfilling, contouring, topsoil replacement (including methods for avoiding excessive soil compaction during wet weather), soil conditioning and stabilization, cultivating, seeding, and pit wall reduction. Consideration must be given to making the reclamation operations consistent with applicable state and local land use plans and programs. Reclamation shall be undertaken as contemporaneously as practicable with mining.

2) Reclaimed land forms - alternatives.

A description and topographic map(s) showing land form changes and water impoundments with time and the ultimate land forms upon completion of mining; including the consideration given to developing reclamation in a manner consistent with local physical, environmental, and climatological conditions and current mining and reclamation technology. Alternative land forms should be proposed.

3) Techniques.

- a) Techniques and equipment for topsoil removal, storage, erosion prevention, replacement and stabilization.
- b) Techniques and equipment for land form shaping, erosion prevention, and stabilization; including logs and analyses of core samples and a description of the method of depositing the spoils based on these samples.
- c) Techniques and equipment for topsoil replacement, soil conditioning (mulching, fertilization, discing, harrowing, etc.).
- d) Planting techniques and schedules, seed mixture, rationale for seed mixture selection, alternate plant species, effect of climatic conditions.
- e) Planned supplemental watering practices and irrigation if applicable.

4) Costs.

An estimate of the cost per acre of reclamation including a separate breakdown for the cost of backfilling and grading, replacement of topsoil, seeding and/or planting, irrigation, fertilizing, and maintenance.

E. Maximum Economic Recovery (MER) Determination

Explanation of how MER of the Federal coal is achieved. If a coalbed, or portion thereof, is not to be mined or is to be rendered unminable by the operation, the operator/lessee shall submit appropriate justification. The 43 CFR 3482.2(a)(2) states, No resource recovery and protection plan or modification thereto shall be approved which is not found to achieve MER of the Federal coal. The determination of MER shall be made by the authorized officer based on the review of the R2P2. MER is defined within 43 CFR as meaning, based on standard industry operating practices, all profitable portions of a leased Federal coal deposit must be mined. At the time of MER determinations, consideration will be given to: existing proven technology; commercially available and economically feasible equipment; coal quality, quantity, and marketability; safety, exploration, operating, processing and transportation costs; and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The requirements of MER does not restrict the authority of the authorized officer to ensure the conservation of the recoverable coal reserves and other resources and to prevent the wasting of coal. To ensure that adequate data is available for the MER determination, the following is required:

- 1) Mining Costs. A description of the cost for all mining equipment, associated equipment, personnel costs, ancillary equipment costs, production costs, overhead and other cost provisions.
- 2) Production Costs. Statement as to production costs or projected production costs.
- 3) Other requirements (contracts, etc.) or costs that have an direct or indirect influence on MER.

II. Maps

All maps submitted in connection with exploration or mining plans shall include the following information as appropriate to the proposed operation:

A. General - All maps or aerial photos should show:

- 1) Mine name; lessee's name; lease number; county; sections, townships(s) and range(s); and lease boundary lines.
- 2) LMU boundary line, if applicable.
- 3) Map scale; register of map extension dates; and true north designation.
- 4) Legend describing all symbols on map.
- 5) Public survey land lines and corners, distance from mine opening to corner, outline of lease boundary.
- 6) Locations and surface elevations of drill holes.
- 7) Numbers of permanent survey stations.
- 8) The mine workings.

- 9) Topographic, cultural, and natural drainage features, roads, and vehicular trails; name of watershed, and location of surface streams or tributaries.

B. Surface maps for underground mines should also show:

- 1) General topography and existing surface improvements.
- 2) Surface ownership and boundaries.
- 3) Coal outcrop showing dips and strikes.
- 4) Location of planned roads; railroad trackage; buildings and other improvements; refuse or waste disposal areas; ore storage; drill holes; mine portals; and erosion-control structures including dams, and settling or treatment ponds.
- 5) Isopach maps of each coalbed to be mined and the overburden and interburden.

C. Underground mine operations maps should also show:

- 1) Planned mine layout including location and dimensions of shafts, slopes, drifts, main haulageway, air courses; entries and barrier pillars; and proposed widths of all slopes, rooms and crosscuts.
- 2) All mine workings and worked-out areas; a mineral section at each entry face; location of surface mine fans; position of all fire walls, dams, main pumps, fire pipelines, permanent ventilating stoppings, doors, overcasts, undercasts, permanent seals and regulators; direction of the ventilating currents in the various parts of the mine; sealed areas, known bodies of standing water in or above the mine workings; areas affected by squeezes; the elevations of all surface and underground levels of all shafts, slopes, drifts; and the elevation of the floor or bottom of the mine workings at regular intervals in main entries, panels, or sections, and sump areas.
- 3) Typical structure cross sections showing all coal contained in the coal reserve base. Cross-section maps should depict the following information:

The nature and depth of the various state of over-burden; the location and quality of any subsurface water encountered; the nature of the stratum immediately above and beneath the zone to be mined; all mineral crop lines and the strike and dip of the beds to be mined; existing or previous surface mining limits; locations and extent of known workings; location of aquifers; estimated elevation of the water table and appropriate cross sections of the anticipated final surface configuration that will be achieved pursuant to the operator's proposed reclamation activities.

- 4) Planned sequence of mining.
 - a) Underground mine - General layout of proposed underground mine showing planned sequence for the first five (5) years, thereafter, in five year increments;

E. Other:

- 1) All excavations/extractions in each separate bed shall be shown in such a manner that production for any royalty period can be accurately ascertained.
- 2) Accuracy of maps furnished shall be certified by a professional engineer, professional land surveyor, or other professionally qualified person.